

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 RSC-01

ACDA-05 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8777

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, XO

SUBJ: SYG COMMENTS ON US TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

1. SYG CALLED AMB SCHAUFLE LATE AFTERNOON JAN 14 ABOUT UPI ITEM (UP-084) WHICH STATES: "CONCERNING REPORTS THAT A US TASK FORCE LED BY THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER ENTERPRISE HAD ENTERED THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THAT THE CARRIER MIDWAY HAD LEFT JAPAN FOR AN UNDISCLOSED DESTINATION, WALDHEIM SAID 'CAREFUL STUDY' ALSO WAS REQUIRED BEFORE ANY UN ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THIS 'VERY COMPLEX' SITUATION."

2. WALDHEIM TOLD SCHAUFLE THAT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION LINKING TASK FORCE AND IOZP RESES HE HAD STATED THERE WERE A NUMBER OF GA RESES ON THIS SUBJECT AND SECRETARIAT WAS STUDYING STEPS WHICH IT SHOULD TAKE WITH RESPECT TO RESES -- NOT TASK FORCE -- SPECIFICALLY PROVISION CALLING UPON SECRETARIAT TO ASSIST AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ITS WORK.

3. WALDHEIM WANTED THIS CLARIFICATION PASSED TO DEPT IMMEDIATELY TO PRECLUDE MISUNDERSTANDING.

4. OPI TEXT OF EXCHANGE ISSUED AS SPECIAL "NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS" FOLLOWS:

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"QUESTION: IN VIEW OF THE REPORTS THAT WARSHIPS ARE STEAMING INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN, COULD YOU TELL US YOUR PLANS FOR CONVENING THE CONCERNED POWERS AS MANDATED IN THE ZONE-OF-PEACE RESOLUTION OF THE LAST ASSEMBLY?

"THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: AS YOU KNOW, IN THIS REGARD A NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND WE ARE NOW STUDYING VERY CAREFULLY THE STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT. I THINK THIS IS A VERY COMPLEX PROBLEM WHICH NEEDS VERY CAREFUL PREPARATION BEFORE ANY ACTION IS TAKEN.

"I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU A CLEAR-CUT ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION. I APOLOGIZE, BUT THE SUBJECT IS MUCH TOO COMPLICATED, AND WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF STUDYING CAREFULLY THE STEPS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN BY US IN THIS REGARD."

NOTE STATED THAT IN RELATION TO THE ABOVE QUESTION, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ANSWER REFERRED TO RESOLUTION 3259 (XXIX) AND THE STUDY OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT TO "RENDER ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE."
BENNETT

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